

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 179511 TOSEC 080105
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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179511 TOSEC 080105

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, SP, MAAR

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: APPOINTMENT REQUEST:
SPANISH FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE MINISTER MANUEL
GUTIERREZ MELLADO (S/S 7814169)

TO THE SECRETARY FROM EUR-RICHARD D. VINE

1. GUTIERREZ MALLADO HAS ACCEPTED DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN'S INVITATION TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES JULY 30-AUGUST 6 AND WILL BE IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 1 AND 2. HE WILL BE COMING AS DEFENSE MINISTER BUT HE IS ALSO FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ("PRIME MINISTER" SUAREZ IS ACTUALLY "PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT"). MAJORITY LEADER BYRD HAS OFFERED A LUNCH FOR AUGUST 2 AND WE ARE REQUESTING AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT, WHO WAS HOSTED BY GUTIERREZ MELLADO IN MADRID IN JANUARY 1977. MRS. BENSON WILL ALSO SEE HIM.

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2. AN ARMY LIEUTENANT GENERAL WHO WENT ON THE RESERVE LIST TO BECOME MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN 1977, GUTIERREZ MELLADO HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN BRINGING SPAIN'S MILITARY UNDER CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND IN THE ONGOING TRANSFORMATION OF THE MILITARY AWAY FROM A FORCE ORIENTED TO DOMESTIC POLITICS AND KEEPING INTERNAL ORDER.

3. RECENTLY HE HAS SHOWN FRUSTRATION WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF OUR TREATY RELATIONSHIP, CONTENDING IN MEETINGS WITH MAJORITY LEADER BYRD AND OTHERS THAT THE US HAS NOT BEEN QUICK ENOUGH TO PROVIDE ITS BENEFITS AS INTERPRETED IN SPAIN. DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN THUS INVITED HIM IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE AIR AND MAINTAIN THE BASICALLY EXCELLENT RELATIONS WHICH EXIST.

4. A BRIEF MEETING WITH YOU WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND TO THE DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION THERE AND PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE HIGHEST LEVEL AT STATE TO ENSURE THE SPANISH THAT WE WILL WORK WITH THEM TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES WHICH MAY EXIST IN TREATY INTERPRETATION.

5. RECOMMENDATION

THAT YOU RECEIVE GUTIERREZ MELLADO FOR A 30-MINUTE CALL ON AUGUST 2.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE -

DATE -

TIME -

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